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INTRODUCED
March 1, 2007

Introduced by Medical Affairs Committee

Read the first time March 1, 2007.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO SEPTIC TANK SITE EVALUATION FEES, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 3084, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The regulations of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, relating to Septic Tank Site Evaluation Fees, designated as Regulation Document Number 3084, and submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 1 of the 1976 Code, are approved.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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2 SUMMARY AS SUBMITTED
3 BY PROMULGATING AGENCY.
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5 Fees for septic tank site evaluations were initiated in the
6 mid-1980's to supplement state appropriations; the fees were never
7 intended to replace appropriated funds. These fees were set at an
8 initial fee rate of \$40.00 per applicant; they were increased to
9 \$60.00 per applicant in 1987. They were increased to \$100 in
10 1999. There have been no subsequent fee increases; nor have there
11 been subsequent appropriations to this activity.
12

13 Septic tank permits issued have increased from an annual average
14 of 18,000 in 1987 to an annual average of 24,500 for the past 5
15 years. There has been no increase in staff during this same period.
16 While response times for septic tank permit applications fluctuate
17 throughout the year, the average response time has increased
18 three-fold during this same period. Budget reductions, escalating
19 operating costs, increased personnel costs, and increased demand
20 for services have diminished the program's ability to continue to
21 function at current levels. Additional funding is needed to
22 continue operation of the program in a timely, effective, and
23 efficient manner. Proposed R.61-55, *Septic Tank Site Evaluation*
24 *Fees*, incorporates a fee increase from \$100.00 to \$150.00.
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